

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Julie Meeks
912-882-4336

St. Marys, Georgia – Cumberland Island National Seashore Superintendent Jerre Brumbelow announced today that there was a Finding of No Significant Impact for the planned stabilization of the Dungeness Mansion ruins. The finding, which was signed by NPS Southeast Regional Director Patricia Hooks, is based on the project's Environmental Assessment as well as comments received from government agencies and the public. In its entirety, the document explains why the stabilization work will not have an adverse effect on the environment.

The ruins of the Dungeness Mansion are located within the Dungeness Historic District on the south end of Cumberland Island. The mansion was destroyed by fire in 1959 and the stabilization project is designed to prevent further deterioration and collapse of the structural remains. The proposed action is necessary in order to ensure visitor safety and enhance the understanding of this key feature of the Carnegie – Dungeness era on the island. Completion of the project will also allow park staff to safely perform basic maintenance of the ruins which is needed to ensure prolonged stability.

A major component of the stabilization includes the installation of support bracing for the mansion's chimneys, walls, doorways, and window openings. Much of the structure's brick, stone and concrete masonry features will also be addressed in the stabilization project. In addition, new gates are to be erected around the mansion and the original ornamental iron work will be restored. Removal of the overgrown vegetation on the interior sections of the ruins is also included in this project. This stabilization project work is slated to begin by early June and should be completed before the end of 2007.